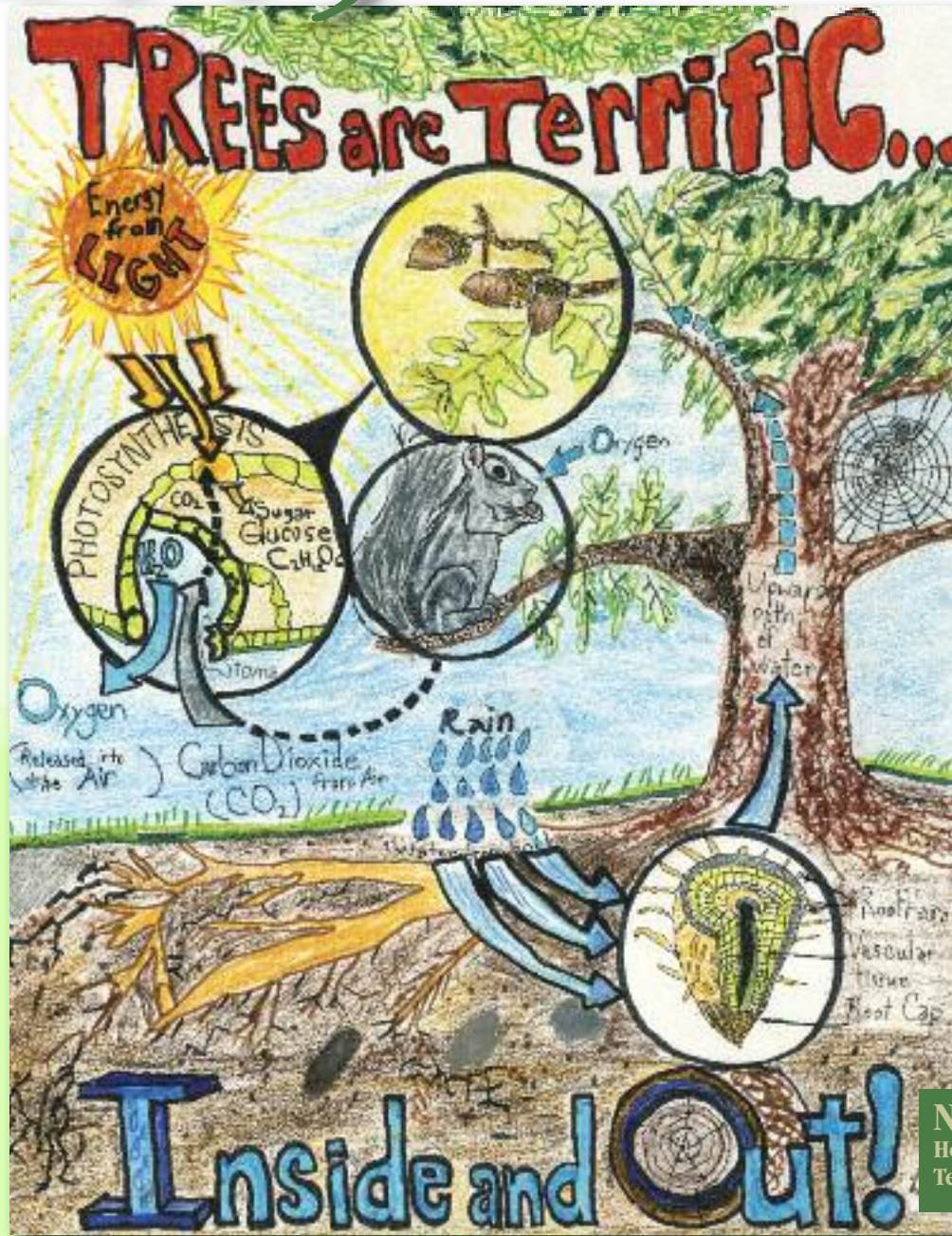


# 2009 Arbor Day - Earth Day Calendar



**Nathan Schwartz • First Place**  
Homeschool, West Bend  
Teacher: Laura Schwartz

## My Favorite Forest Animal

By Micaela Jobke

My fur can be white, gray or black,  
and we do not travel in a pack.  
We do not hibernate when it's chilly,  
sit and watch us, you'll think we're silly.  
We can climb a tree in the blink of an eye,  
do not try to catch me I'm really quite shy.  
My tail is bushy and my hands are so cute,  
we often snack on nuts and fruit.  
We make a nest in the hole of a tree,  
it's great to be so wild and free.  
We can't come in your house to be your pet,  
we look like a drowned rat when we're wet.  
We come in many colors and sizes,  
don't be shocked if we show you some surprises.  
We like to come out during the day,  
we gather our food, run and play.  
We gather and store our food in the fall,  
watch us walk on electric wires up tall.  
You can't really tell if I'm a boy or girl,  
my favorite forest animal is the squirrel.

St. Martin Lutheran School, Clintonville  
Teacher: Ms. Teresa Buelow  
First Place



Wisconsin Department  
of Natural Resources  
PUB-FR-128 2008

Wisconsin's forests are an amazing resource! To honor the valuable services provided by our trees and forests, it is my pleasure to share with you the Department of Natural Resources' 2009 Arbor Day-Earth Day calendar. With each new month you will discover the artwork and thoughts of Wisconsin students as they express their feelings about our diverse forest resource.

The poster contest theme, "Trees are Terrific . . . Inside and Out!" challenged fifth grade students to use their artistic ability and showcase the vital role of trees. On the inside, trees are busy making food, soaking up water and nutrients from the soil, and producing the materials necessary to grow bigger and stronger. Now that I've given you the "inside" scoop about trees, let's get "out"! Outside, trees also help our communities by providing shade and beauty, filtering water, cleaning and cooling the air, reducing stormwater runoff, and preserving soil. Trees are at work every day of the year, and they are certainly an important resource.

The writing contest theme, "My Favorite Forest Animal," asked Wisconsin fourth graders to compose a narrative which shared their thoughts on an animal that plays a special role in the forest ecosystem. There are a wide variety of animals across our state, big and small, and many of them depend on forests for survival. Trees provide them with shelter, food, a resting place, a lookout tower, or even a hiding spot. Without forests we would not be able to enjoy many of the wildlife species that grace our state. So, you might say that trees provide us with important "creature comforts"!

But forests are also important in many other ways! They play a very important role in our everyday lives:

- Wisconsin's urban forests annually provide over \$64 million in environmental services including carbon storage, air pollution removal, and energy savings.

- The forest products industry is Wisconsin's second largest manufacturing employer, providing 1 in every 6 manufacturing jobs in the state, and a total revenue of almost \$20 billion annually.
- Every day, the average person uses about 4.5 pounds of wood products (paper, pencils, newspapers, etc.). Over the course of a year, that adds up to a tree 16-18" in diameter and one hundred feet tall!
- Forest-based recreation (hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, etc.) annually contributes \$5.5 billion to Wisconsin's economy.

Let's face it, trees "spruce" up our lives! With your help, Wisconsin's forests will continue to play an important role in the future. I hope you will join us in celebrating the benefits we receive from our forests and in joining the challenge to protect and sustainably manage them for future generations to enjoy. Learn how you can become a partner in caring for and supporting Wisconsin's forests by visiting the DNR forestry website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry>.

*Paul DeLong*

Paul DeLong  
Chief State Forester



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